



# QuayNotes

Newsletter for residents of Merchants Landing

[www.mlra.co.uk](http://www.mlra.co.uk)

JUNE 2016

## Do you want this or not?



### SNIPPETS FROM THE MLRA WEBSITE

The information below was posted recently on the mlra website by our webmasters Laura and David Demery, and also circulated by email to interested residents. If you would like to add your name to the circulation list please get in touch via our website: [www.mlra.org.uk](http://www.mlra.org.uk)

### Development of The General:

The developers are currently rebuilding the original mansard roof in the middle of the frontage onto Bathurst Basin, part of the building completed in 1856, but destroyed by incendiary bombs dropped by the Luftwaffe in 1941. The developers will also be restoring balconies that were added to the building in 1916-19, but again destroyed by the air-raid of January 1941. The next stage in the restoration will be putting back the ogee dome on the octagonal tower. **Metrobus latest:** Work has started on the skew bridge on Winterstoke Road which will allow Metrobus to cross the Portbury railway line - to allow sufficient space for future electrification - and to avoid traffic congestion on the adjoining roads. Also the M32 is closed this weekend for the construction of a bus bridge into UWE and beyond.

*The Editor writes:* Residents may recall that in the last edition of *Quay Notes*, I announced that I wanted to pass on the editorship to a new volunteer, and was there anybody out there who was in need of a new interesting hobby? When making that announcement I was aware that it is rare for anybody to volunteer for a position that is not yet vacant, and perhaps I had to actually leave before a volunteer came forward. So, in preparing for this issue, I wrote, as always to ask MLRA Chair Joi Demery for material to include, and to ask whether there had been any volunteers. The reply I got at the end of last month gave a written account of the guided walk held in April, and details of future events – see overleaf. But of volunteers there had been none at that time. I raised the question as to whether *Quay Notes* was needed? Given the excellent website (see column on the right of this page for snippets from it), and the email news service that now accompanies it, perhaps a printed newsletter was now redundant. And the Association could save itself the annual costs (about £60) for printing it.

That question, as to whether *Quay Notes* is still needed, remains on the table, and those who would like to answer it might like to get in touch with one of the committee members listed overleaf. But in the meantime, I'm pleased to say that a new volunteer has just come forward – the newest member of the Residents Association Committee, and a relatively new resident of Merchants Landing, Kevin Little. Kevin does have the technical production capabilities that are sadly lacking in your current editor, but he is a little apprehensive about finding the material to fill each issue. I can give him some assistance with that, but it would be even better if there were other residents out there who were willing to assist. Any offers? Finally, just a word of thanks to all who have contributed over the last four years, and those who have expressed appreciation of my efforts. From me, over and out!

## The Merchants Landing Residents Association Committee:

Anthony Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	Joi Demery	9 Merchants Quay	9213412
Geri Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	Ann Phillips	6 Trin Mills	3297412
Tony Little	13 Challoner Court	9227336	Kevin Little	3 Merrick Court	
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	Jan Walsh	8 Bathurst Parade	9268714

## News of your Residents Association

*Joi Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Residents Association reports:*

The committee were very pleased to hear that the John Sebastian has reopened, we are sorry that we were unable to find an alternative venue for the Murder Mystery and therefore had to cancel. Thanks to people who suggested alternative venues, we will keep them in mind but hopefully will be able to go back to using the JS as usual.

**Guided Walk** - a number of brave individuals ignored the rain and thoroughly enjoyed another guided walk by our resident expert Brenda Page. This year we explored Bedminster, Brenda had done her homework and managed to find shelter for most of our stops!

We learnt how Bedminster is an ancient area, and was an important route in Roman times, then through pastoral times to more industrial, with mining being influential, how the Malago was fast flowing through it's centre and how in world war 2 boats were filled at the New Cut with rubble from the blitz and used as ballast in ships returning to the USA which ended up in helping to provide the foundations of New York!

There were many other fascinating facts and we viewed an original Thomas Crapper man cover! It was a fascinating evening and demonstrated to many of us how we often walk around without seeing much of the history in front of us! Thanks again to Brenda for another very enlightening evening.

**THE EBENEZER.** The Harbourmaster is considering the relocation of a large domestic barge from Welsh Back to Bathurst Parade, in front of Byzantine Court. Any resident concerned about this should get in touch with John Bates at 12 Bathurst Parade – email: [john9\\_mbates@btinternet.com](mailto:john9_mbates@btinternet.com)

**THEATRE CLUB.** A group of residents join together about 4 times a year for theatre visits. The co-ordinator Maggie Thorne (email: [maggiemandmikethorne@talktalk.net](mailto:maggiemandmikethorne@talktalk.net)) is reviewing the membership list. Would existing members please confirm their interest in belonging, and any new members would be very welcome to join the list.

Future events:

### Summer Garden Party Saturday 18 June - from 1.00

Once again we shall be gathering in the communal garden to enjoy an afternoon (and evening) of fun. Please bring some food to share, the residents association will provide strawberries and cream, the jazz band will be with us again and there will be a raffle and book stall. There will be a royal theme in honour of the Queens 90th birthday! don't forget your chairs and crockery and cutlery! Looking forward to seeing family and friends joining us.

### Open Gardens Saturday 23 July - from 2.30

Back by popular demand! We are looking for volunteers to open their gardens (or balconies!) for residents to have a wander around. Meeting in the communal gardens at 2.30. Please let Joi Demery know if you are willing to open your garden. We will be finishing with refreshments.

### Annual General Meeting – Provisionally 16<sup>th</sup> September.

### Thanks

On behalf of the committee and residents I would like to express our thanks to Mike Thorne for being editor of Quay Notes for several years. Mike has done a marvellous job and been great at finding interesting stories and issues which relate to the landing.

## Amenities Company News

*Roy Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Amenities Board says:* At the recent Directors meeting, it was decided to award the gardening contract to Landscape Services (South West) Ltd, and they will be taking over the contract from June onwards. The new gardeners are local, come highly recommended and offered a highly competitive rate.

Activities will surround Merchants Landing at the Harbour Festival (July 15-17th) and vehicular and pedestrian access onto the development will be restricted to residents. Passes have been issued by Richmond Events Management, the Festival Organisers.

The Annual General Meeting will be on Friday October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Contact details for the Directors of Merchants Landing (Amenities) Ltd are:

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This Newsletter was edited by: Mike Thorne of 15, Merrick Court, Merchants Quay.  
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or, if that's not possible, through the letterbox.